



Instructions for Using *Accent Rose Gold™*

These instructions were issued on 5/14/16 and supersede all earlier versions

Read and follow these instructions carefully before using this product. It is essential to follow the steps in italics to achieve successful results.

It is recommended that first-time users of this product apply it first on small silver test pieces as a learning method. Refer to Sections 3 & 6.

Accent Rose Gold™ is an 18k gold product used to apply rose-colored gold accents to jewelry articles. It can be used on articles made from cast and wrought sterling silver and all brands of fine and sterling silver clay. It is applied as a paste, dried, fired, and then provided with the desired finish.

Tools to have ready:

- Clean artist's paint brush with short bristles for mixing and applying *Accent Rose Gold™*. Both flat and pointed brushes may be needed.
- A rubber-tipped colored clay shaper may also be useful.
- Small container of distilled water, with dropper
- Various finishing tools, such as: steel burnisher, tumbler with shot, and 3M Scotch-Brite™ radial bristle discs

1) Mixing & Application – First Coat

- The surface of the article must be clean and also have some roughness. Clean, recently fired surfaces off metal clay need no further preparation. *Polished surfaces must be roughened with abrasive*, such as 80 grit Scotch-Brite™ radial bristle discs. Finally, ensure 100% wettability by the paste. Clean the piece with soapy water if necessary.
- After opening a new container of *Accent Rose Gold™*, add 8-10 drops of distilled water to the contents and then stir with a brush. Then add 1 or 2 drops more at a time and stir to make a smooth syrupy liquid. Mix for at least two minutes to ensure the paste has completely absorbed the water and is smooth and free of lumps. If it is too thin, let some of the water evaporate.
- Using a clean brush or clay shaper, dip it into the container and capture some of the paste.
- *Apply the first coat thick enough so that it is opaque, or nearly opaque, to the silver beneath it.* Cover the entire region of interest with the first coat. If the texture is deep, a round pointed brush may be needed. *Smooth the coat while wet to remove any lumps or bubbles.*
- Dry the first coat for at least 1 & 1/2 hours in air at room temperature. Do not place the article on a hot surface to accelerate drying. *After drying, the silver should not be visible beneath the coating. If it is, apply a bit more paste in just those thin areas and then smooth the surface again.*
- Cover the container of unused *Accent Rose Gold™* with the plastic cap. The brush or clay shaper can be left to dry in air and then reused. Place any flakes that may have fallen off the brush back into the plastic container and rehydrate them.

2) Mixing & Application – Second Coat

- If necessary, rehydrate the paste in the container by adding 1 or 2 drops of distilled water at a time. Also rehydrate the brush or shaper by using it to stir the paste into the consistency of smooth syrup, and then mix for a minute or longer to ensure no lumps remain.
- Apply *Accent Rose Gold™* onto the piece by working quickly, because moisture can re-hydrate the first layer, pull it up, and leave bald spots. Use smooth brush strokes and a creamy mixture. If you see bald areas start to appear, cover them with additional paste.
- *Be sure the final coat is opaque, smooth, and free of lumps and ripples.* Any uneven areas will remain after firing and will require heavy burnishing to remove them. Dry the second coat for 1 and 1/2 hours or longer at room temperature. A coated and dried piece can be left over night.

3) **Effect of Kiln Type**

- Actual kiln temperatures may run either hotter or cooler than the indicated temperature by up to +/- about 70 F! It is therefore advisable to check your kiln temperature accuracy with a pyrometer.
- You can develop an acceptable firing schedule for your kiln by experimenting with small test pieces of fired silver coated with **Accent Rose Gold™** before firing jewelry. After firing, the **Accent Rose Gold™** should burnish to a smooth, adherent layer with a rich rose-gold color. A layer that comes off during finishing, or a layer that is too light in color, indicates that the firing temperature was probably too low or the firing time too short.

4) **Firing**

- Fill a stainless steel firing pan (not clay or ceramic) no larger than 6 inches x 4 inches x 2 & 3/8 inches (smaller is acceptable), with about a half inch of activated carbon. Place the jewelry article on the activated carbon layer, add about one more inch of carbon, and then place the lid.
- Use kiln posts or fire brick to elevate the firing pan so it is in line with the heating elements and not resting on the kiln floor.
IMPORTANT:
- **IF** you have a fully programmable kiln, program it to ramp over a period of about 45 minutes to 1415 F, hold for 20 minutes, and then power off the kiln.
- **IF** your kiln has only pre-programmed cycles, then ramp to 650 F, hold for 30 minutes, then ramp to 1415 F and hold for 20 minutes, and then power off the kiln.
- After the program has completed, allow the kiln to cool below about 300 F and then remove the pan.

5) **Finishing**

- The fired layer should be a cinnamon or light brown color. If it is black, oxidation occurred during firing and the coating cannot be used. This can occur if the pan was not covered during firing.
- *Do not wear through the fired layer when applying the final finish.* The initial finish should be to burnish by hand, followed by tumbling and/or finishing with polishing discs.
- Both pickling, and application of a patina with liver of sulfur, can be performed without affecting the rose gold color.

6) **Cautions and Don'ts**

- *Recommended: Use a small test piece or pieces of fired silver to develop an acceptable method of both firing and finishing.* It is better to develop your technique by using scrap test pieces than to possibly make a mistake on your jewelry item!
- *When finishing do not use coarse abrasives to avoid wearing through the fired layer.*
- *Always remember to place the lid on the firing pan before inserting it into the kiln.*
- **Accent Rose Gold™** can be difficult to burnish and polish within narrow and deep textures.
- Midas™ Black Max can be used to create a patina, but the patina formed on the rose gold layer must then be removed by light brushing.
- **Accent Rose Gold™** is not suitable for torch firing because oxidation and discoloration will occur.

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